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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 25th January 1902.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

53. The prevalence of theft and burglary in the Purbahore police-station circle, and the failure of the police to trace the culprits or recover the stolen property, lend colour, says the *Behar Herald*, to the popular impression that the lower grades of the police of that station are in the pay of *badmashes*. It recommends a thorough overhauling of the thana and a complete change in its *personnel*, and hopes that the City Inspector will himself take up the enquiry into the recent cases of theft and burglary committed in that jurisdiction.

BEHAR HERALD,
22nd Jan. 1902.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

54. The *Bengalee*, learning that the Chief Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court recommended Mr. K. M. Chatterji for an extension of service, would like to know why the Government has not sanctioned the extension.

BENGALEE,
18th Jan. 1902.

55. The following is taken from the *Hindoo Patriot* :—

Ibid. “Mr. K. M. Chatterji, the popular Third Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, will retire shortly, and as there is little chance of granting him a further extension of service, his retirement has roused public attention. The members of the Calcutta Small Cause Court Bar have resolved at a meeting of their own to approach the Government of Bengal with a representation on the subject praying for the grant of a further extension to Mr. Chatterji. The Native Press has been urging for the further retention of his service, and we endorse the view expressed by our contemporaries. Mr. Chatterji is a very able officer and as a Judge has won the golden opinion of both the pleaders and suitors, and his retirement will be regarded as a public loss. In his case the extension can be easily granted, because it would not very seriously affect the prospects of the Judges below him. Had Mr. Chatterji belonged to a Mufassal Small Cause Court or was a Mufassal Judge in any capacity, some objections could have arisen for a further extension of his service, because the prospects of those who are in the lowest rungs of the ladder in the Subordinate Judicial Service would have been affected by it. But while such is not the case an extension can be granted to him. We hope the Government of Bengal will deign to hear the appeal that is being made to them.”

HINDOO PATRIOT,
21st Jan. 1902.

56. The *Bengalee* enquires why Government is so anxious to retire Mr. K. M. Chatterji, the 3rd Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, when his further efficiency is vouched for by the Chief Judge, and the pleaders of the Court are desirous of seeing a further extension granted him. His retirement will unnecessarily increase the financial burden of the country and also cause him hardship.

BENGALEE,
19th Jan. 1902.

In expressing the hope of a further extension being granted, the journal draws the attention of Government to the claims of the Subordinate Judicial Service, which, since Sir Charles Elliott's time, has been deprived of a Judgeship in the Small Cause Court. It considers that the privilege should now be restored.

57. The *Bengalee* gives instances of delay in obtaining the services of a bailif of the Small Cause Court for executing The Calcutta Small Cause decrees, and implores the Chief Judge to look Court. into this matter and take necessary steps to redress a grievance which is most keenly felt. The trouble to suitors in securing the services of these men is due either to their number being too inadequate or the remuneration offered them too insignificant. Some of them occasionally earn by this means more than many a pleader practising in the Small Cause Court.

BENGALEE,
19th Jan. 1902.

(e) — Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.

BENGALEE,
18th Jan. 1902.

58. The *Bengalee* learns that Nawab Jan, the man who attempted an assault on Mr. D'Cruz of the Warrant Department of the Calcutta Municipality, and the case against whom was dismissed, has been employed by Mr. D'Cruz as a peon. The writer adds:—

“ If the facts have been correctly reported to us, all that we can say is that the Municipality has been bullied into entertaining a man like Nawab Jan, partly through fear and partly through the hope of utilising him in enforcing the coercive provisions of the law. We are quite sure Mr. Greer will disapprove of the arrangement altogether. For nothing could be more demoralising than the appointment of a man who had openly defied the Municipal authorities.”

(g) — Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

BENGALEE,
23rd Jan. 1902.

59. The *Bengalee* calls the attention of Messrs. Hoare, Miller & Co. to a complaint of insufficient accommodation for first and second class passengers provided in the Tarkeswar trains. The deficiency is specially notable on Sundays when many passengers of the respectable class travel. Another grievance is the irregular departure of trains. The down evening train of last Sunday was delayed because the guard was out shooting and had not returned in time.

(h) — General.

BENGALEE,
18th Jan. 1902.

60. The *Bengalee* urges the appointment on the Mining Board of Kumar Dakineshwar Malia as the most suitable Indian gentleman for that position.

It learns that the Government submitted the names of the members of the Board to the Chamber of Commerce and that body approved of them. In pursuance of that policy, it suggests that the Government should submit for the approbation of the Chamber the names of proposed Secretaries and Chief Secretaries and Members of the Board of Revenue.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
19th Jan. 1902.

The proposed transfer of the Govindpur subdivision to the Burdwan district.

61. Referring to the agitation against the transfer of Govindpur to the Burdwan district, *Power and Guardian* says:— “ Public meetings have been held, and resolutions passed, protesting against the innovation. There can be not the least shadow of a doubt as to the wishes and interests of the largest bulk of the population; and civilized Governments, we are taught, are moved only by the consideration of the greatest good to the greatest number. What, then, are we to think of the proposed move, when elaborate and well reasoned memorials of the vast majority appear destined to be ignored in favour of the mere opinion of a body of European merchants and adventurers. This is a typical instance of the utter disregard of native opinion, even when influential and solid, evinced by the rulers of India who seem always to be disposed to give more weight to the convenience of a few insignificant members of their community than to the united voice of whole India.”

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
19th Jan. 1902.

62. *Power and Guardian*, continuing its article on the Minor Civil Services, notices the disproportion of natives to Europeans and Eurasians in the subordinate ranks of the Telegraph Department, and the difference in their pay, which in the case of the native has been fixed on a lower scale an account of the expenses of living being lower than those necessary for a European or Eurasian officer. It appeals to Lord Curzon to take up the matter and remove the flagrant injustice.

BENGALEE,
19th Jan. 1902.

63. Referring to the fact that the Calcutta Anglo-Indian dailies published the full text of the Government Resolution on the Land Revenue policy in India the same day as it appeared in the *Gazette of India*, the *Bengalee* protests against “ this flagrant piece of favouritism, by which advance copies of the Resolution were sent a day earlier to the Anglo-Indian papers only.”

Important news sometimes escapes from the official portfolio and appears in the columns of the Anglo-Indian Press, while if a stray piece of news found its way into the Indian Press, a hue and cry would be raised and the Official Secrets Act brought into operation.

64. After some remarks on the dangerous doctrine of jurisprudence, *The case of Mr. Ross.* of recognising intensity of temptation as a mitigating circumstance of a criminal breach of trust, the *Indian Nation* does not understand why Mr. Ross was appointed Commissioner of the Sunderbuns without a security, or why a native was not appointed to it. What special and technical qualifications are needed for the office which natives do not possess? The departure is all the more unaccountable in view of the fact that the Europeans appointed are supposed to feel themselves aggrieved by the smallness of the pay!

65. The *Indian Empire* remarks, in connection with this case, that the *Ibid.* moral to be drawn is never to engage a European on a salary below a thousand rupees. All other posts should be given to competent Indians.

66. The following is taken from the *Indian Nation* :—
The case of Mr. Lyall. “ Mr. Lyall's case has had one good effect, but we are afraid only a temporary one. A section of the Anglo-Indian community has been roused to an evil which has for many years been complained of by native agitators. It is that verdicts of juries should be liable to be set aside by the High Courts. When all attempts to get Mr. Lyall out of prison failed, the Anglo-Indian complaint was reduced to a protest against that rule of law. For ourselves we are not prepared to declare that rule to be universally an evil. Juries in India are not universally intelligent or independent. And though there are reasons to fear that in some cases verdicts are improperly set aside, there are reasons also to fear that in some cases verdicts deserve to be set aside. It is difficult to construct a law to suit both classes of cases. After all, the effect of laws will depend on the character of the people. *Quid leges sine moribus.* Upon one point, however, we are clear. We protest against the privilege secured to Anglo-Indian prisoners by the ill-fated 'Ilbert Bill.' ”

67. The *Indian Empire* supplements the affirmative reply of Mr. J. M. Maclean, an *ex M. P.* to this question, in the “ Is India becoming more and more discontented? ” following terms:—

“ The sepoy revolt was the result of disaffection in the native army only. The discontentment, which has been steadily growing for many years past, pervades all classes of the population (except, perhaps, that of the ruling chiefs), and the agricultural classes most of all—the classes with whose fate that of numberless small native industries is inseparably associated. Heavy assessments, rigidly collected without regard to fluctuations in the soil's output, have reduced the bulk of the peasant class to the last stage of penury. Even an official in so responsible a position as that of the Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government declared not long ago that, to save the agricultural population of the Western Presidency from ruin, the agrarian system must be revised from top to bottom.”

68. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has not the slightest doubt that Lord Curzon is the author of the important resolution on land revenue and famine, as “ every line unmistakeably indicates the Roman hand.” It is pronounced to be a skilful production, the writer having used all available arts to establish his position and demolish his antagonist.

When Mr. R. C. Dutt issued his manifesto he was warned that he had blundered in leaving a loophole for his opponents. The point at issue is not whether the raiyats are over-assessed or under-assessed. Mr. Dutt is advised to renew his attack, although he cannot hope to fight successfully with Lord Curzon, even if he is in the right.

After publishing the entire resolution, the journal hopes to show that but for some tactical blunders Mr. Dutt is right in his main contention.

69. The *Bengalee* refers to the reply of the Government of India to the *The Minor Civil Services.* representation of the Indian Association on the exclusion of natives of India from the minor Civil

INDIAN NATION,
20th Jan. 1902.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
21st Jan. 1902.

INDIAN NATION,
20th Jan. 1902.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
21st Jan. 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd Jan. 1902.

BENGALEE,
23rd Jan. 1902.

Services, which in effect says that the Government are unable to countenance the policy of a wider employment of natives of Bengal in the higher offices in the minor civil services, because, among other reasons, they were tried in the Opium Department and found wanting.

It meets the latter charge by quoting the Administration Report of the Opium Department, in which out of 288 European Officers and 12 Indian officers employed in that Department, 8 officers were singled out for honourable mention, and of these 4 were natives.

It then goes on to say:—

“ It would be altogether a mistake to imagine that the question has been practically settled by the decision of the Government. Great as is our respect for the Government of India, we owe a duty to our countrymen, and that duty compels us to say that we do not regard the decision of the Government as the last word in the controversy. The agitation must be renewed again and again until we get what we want. The forces of reaction must ere long give way to the impetus which makes for progress, and which, though it may be long in coming, must come in the end and sweep away before it the sophisms by which the cause of human progress has been arrested and the advancement of communities has been retarded. We are looking forward to the advent of that day, so rich in the possibilities of our future progress.”

BENGALEE,
23rd Jan. 1902.

70. The *Bengalee* disagrees with the *Civil and Military Gazette* in its opinion that the Native army in India (both officers and men) is undermanned, and that one half the men are unfit for modern warfare.

It says that expert opinion is unanimous in holding that the Indian army both in numerical strength and technical equipment is up to date and thoroughly efficient; nay, it is far in excess of the actual needs of the country; witness the fact that, in fighting England's battles outside India, the Indian authorities thought it safe to lend a contingent of several thousand men from the Indian garrison without detriment to the safety of the Empire.

As regards the inefficiency of the sepoy, the *Bengalee* accuses the writer in the *Civil and Military Gazette* of doing an injustice to the native army. It has won its laurels in many a field and has had the highest encomiums paid to its warlike virtues from the highest military quarters. If there is a lack of brains in the leaders of that army, it is not, says this paper, the rank and file that is to blame; for the leaders of the army are recruited from England.

In conclusion the *Bengalee* says:—

“ The writer apparently is one of the alarmists who know no rest unless they find the country turned into a veritable armed camp. The country is overburden with taxation, and extended military organizations will require additional outlay and will, therefore, entail additional imposts. The overburdened Indian tax-payer cannot bear taxation any more, and if the safety of the Empire requires that further military organizations should be inaugurated, we believe the Government would be well-advised if it took the people into its confidence. The policy of mistrust should be done away with, volunteering and enrolment encouraged, and the warlike Houses of India drawn upon for the supply of the soldier and the captain. Broad-based upon popular sympathies, a Government has nothing to be afraid of when the people understand that their interests and those of the Government are identical.”

III.—LEGISLATION.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st Jan. 1902.

71. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the Bengal Legislative Council has practically been abolished, as it would appear from the index to its proceedings for the year 1901, that there were only two sittings of the Council.

In the beginning, continues the *Patrika*, the Government showed commendable zeal and the privilege of interpellation was un-restricted, but now the Indian Members are not to put many and any unpleasant questions.

Under these circumstances asks the paper “ why are our people ready to fly at one another's throats for the honour of serving on such a Council? ”

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

72. In connection with the sea-voyage movement, the *Kayastha Messenger* cautions both the Hindu community and their England-returned castemen against anything which might occasion an irreparable breach between them. Its advice to the community is that it should view the question from a commonsense standpoint, and adopt a tolerant and less conservative policy towards its brethren. On the other hand the England-returned Hindus must conform to social rules and win by meekness and affability the sympathy of the members of the Society.

The paper harps on the necessity of bringing the sea-voyage question to a settlement, as the present policy is a danger to the advancement of the country, and urges that a persistent agitation should be kept up until a satisfactory decision is arrived at, which should be published throughout the country.

The *Messenger* concludes by saying that the approaching coronation of His Majesty is a suitable opportunity for the Hindu leaders, who should remain in England for some time and so establish a lasting precedent.

73. In a leading article under this heading, the *Bengalee* comments on a letter from a Muhammadan, complaining of the injustice to his community by the failure on the part of the Government to appoint to the Executive Service deserving men from amongst his compatriots, and after discrediting the theory that the bestowal of special favours to the Muhammadans was dependent on their scrupulous abstention from political agitation in any shape, says that the present unrest to be noticed amongst the Muhammadans is therefore by no means to be deplored. It indicates the reawakening of the forces that have lain dormant or been stifled, and the *Bengalee* has full confidence in the intelligence, good sense and patriotism of its Muhammadan fellow-subjects, and ventures to predict that they will, without any persuasion and pressure from outside, find out for themselves what is the best course for them to adopt under the present circumstances.

74. The *Bengalee*, advertiring to the Bill which has been introduced into the Punjab Legislative Council for the compulsory acquisition of military transport animals in time of war, asks:—

“How would the British public receive a measure of the kind proposed for the Punjab? One of the greatest difficulties of the British War Office during the Transvaal War has been to meet the demand for transport animals, and the success of British arms has often been hampered by lamentable deficiency in the transport arrangements. But would the Ministry have retained its office for a day if it had proposed to impress transport animals for hire in the United Kingdom as was done in the Punjab in connection with the Tirah campaign?”

75. Referring to the case in the Punjab, in which a native has been charged with having kidnapped a girl of the Christian Orphanage to re-convert her to Hinduism, the *Bengalee*, while abstaining from commenting upon the conduct of the Police, asks whether if, instead of the Punjabi President of the Simla Arya Somaj, the accused was a European Christian Missionary, would he have been sent to the lock-up and kept there for five days in a case of this kind, where no element of moral delinquency at all enters, and where admittedly the accused is fired by something of the zeal of the prophet or the martyr? The days for the persecution of men for their religious and ethical conviction have, it continues, come to an end in India. “In the meantime, we earnestly appeal to the Government to make an enquiry with a view to ascertain the guardians of those children whom the Missionaries and others took charge of during the last famine, and arrange for the restoration of such children to their guardians, if they are willing to take them back. We need not disguise the fact that there is a very strong feeling in the Hindu community about the matter, and the facts of the case, to which we have just referred, have accentuated the feeling.”

76. Commenting on the speech of the Maharaja of Gidhour at the Rajput meeting, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the glorious existence the Hindus enjoyed during

KAYASTHA MESSENGER,
16th Jan. 1902.

BENGALEE,
18th Jan. 1902.

BENGALEE,
21st Jan. 1902.

BENGALEE,
21st Dec. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd Jan. 1902

the period the Rajputs were in charge of the defence and the administration of the country. Glories in war, spoliation or conquest are not spoken of, for the Rajputs fought for religion, country and home, not for the greed of material gain.

The fall of the Hindus is attributed to their having cultivated their spiritual nature and neglected their physical improvement.

Their doom is sealed and their end is nigh, and, says the *Patrika*, the sooner they disappear the better for them. From being the foremost they have become the most backward nation in the world, being even behind the Afghans.

BENGALEE,
23rd Jan. 1902.

77. The *Bengalee* is of opinion that the appointment of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar as an Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King-Emperor is a step in the right direction. It is in entire accord with the practice and the traditions of the Moghal Emperors, and the devotion and fidelity of the great Rajput Princes to the throne of Delhi are recorded in a glorious chapter in Indian history.

It is desired that the present rulers will follow the policy of their predecessors, and consolidate their sway by attaching to the British connection the heartfelt gratitude and love of the people.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
23rd Jan. 1902.

78. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* contrasts the present British Congress Committee with that which existed at the commencement, and questions its efficiency. It agrees with Messrs. Schwanne, Ellis, Caine, Roberts and others, who have withdrawn from it, that the Committee is frittering away its resources in publishing a journal which is of very little value, and deplores Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee's reference to these gentlemen as being "only friends." It behoves no Indian, much less one in the exalted position of Mr. Bonnerjee, to belittle those to whom India looks forward as the champions of its cause in England, and who have already laid the Indians under deep obligation by their disinterested services.

Rupees 32,000 is considered far too large a sum for a publication like *India*, as it would not cost more than Rs. 8,000 to bring out the journal in this country.

Its circulation amongst the English public is almost nil, and the Congress has taken a retrograde step in voting an unspecified but large sum of money to the British Committee.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 25th January 1902.

H. B. St. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.